

Why Are Australian Troops In Afghanistan? The Opium Stupid!

Sunday, 29 January 2012

From The Desk
Lloyd T Vance
South East Asia News.org

Greetings Fellow Australians

And people from around the World, I was just reading this below story and thought it was important to rehash the real reason our "Traitorous" "Treasonous" sell out politicians both sides of Federal Parliament have Australian Troops deployed in Afghanistan.

The Opium and \$\$\$\$\$ Stupid

The OzBoy File – The Truth About Afghanistan

was one of the first books I put together proving and showing why we are there that part of the World.

I will upload a copy of it for all to read latter.

Ex – Prime Minister (American – Zionist) Agent John Howard knew the truth and his Senior Ministers but like good little "Subservient" minion went along with their orders from Washington without question

Ex – Prime Minister (Red Communist Chinese) +
(American CIA – Israeli Mossad) Double Agent Kevin
Rudd also went along with his orders without question

And here is the short and curly of it.

The Taliban some religious fanatical – radical nut jobs
Muslims took over Afghanistan imposing their Man –
Made form of Islam upon the whole country and
citizens.

Under their rule the Opium Trade went down to 187
tons per year being produced.

So Uncle Sam on his “White Horse” couldn’t have any
of that, and invaded to put the drug trade under their
control again for the benefit of all the corrupt entities
that live off the industry in Afghanistan.

Since Uncle Sam, the Righteous / God Fearing /
Americans and lackie countries forced to sign up with
invasion Oct 2001.

Production has gone from 187 Tons yearly

To

6,300 Tons yearly being produced = 93 % of The
World Heroin Supply, remember Opium is turned into
Heroin.

Connect The Dots People

We expose some of the main players in **The OzBoy File – Truth About Afghanistan** Book.

The most criminal thing about this is America jails every year more people for minor drug offences, yet their Government allows and has the Military directly on the front line for this Illegal Industry to go ahead.

Even my own country Australia – The Western Australian State Government under Collin Barrnet will build 3 New Prisons to house all the New Prisoners to the system they will have after they passed and will impose harder drug Laws upon the community.

If your caught with 1 Gram – that's a \$20 Deal in your persons, you can face fines up to \$1,000 or 12 months in Prison.

Seems Australia is going the same way as America with trying to build a Prison Industry System where Corporations will get rich building and running these Prisons for Governments.

I for one get very angry when I think what is going down and about to be implemented and you should be too friend.

Under Pressure from Zionist Controlled United States of America most western countries Governments have their Troops in Afghanistan protecting, controlling and running the Illegal Drug Industry there.

And read in The Truth About Afghanistan Book who is profiting and where the money is ending up.

Then back home these same corrupt "Subservient Governments" are passing Laws locking people up for 12 months for having 1 Gram = \$20 deal of dope caught on them?

- When the Revolution Comes and people start to fight back at how they are being enslaved by corrupt politicians working for the Corporations all shit is going to hit the fan
- And warning for all the Brown Shirts (Police – Military – Intelligence Agencies) if you corrupt bastards want to get in the way protecting these criminal politicians remember there is more of us then you.

Chose very carefully Brown Shirts, because if you chose to stand with evil and corrupt politicians running all our Governments around the World, I can assure you when we "The People" run you over, defeat, crush you in battle for control.

Rest assured Brown Shirts the same corrupt evil politicians wont cry over your spilled blood.

SATURDAY, MARCH 05, 2005

\$600 billion in drug money laundered through Wall St and US banks?

http://www.copvcia.com/free/ww3/121103_afghan_ppy.html

"Ever wonder why the markets are doing so well?

As FTW has documented for years, with almost \$600 billion in drug money being laundered through Wall Street and US banks, the markets should be improving.

According to CNN, opium production in Afghanistan is 36 times higher than at the end of Taliban rule.

Not every US policy overseas is a failure. Hamid Karzai controls a few square blocks of Kabul. But CIA-controlled warlords control the real estate that really matters."

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/ALLPOLITICS/11/28/afghanistan.drugs.reut/index.html>

How Deeply is the U.S. involved in the Afghan Drug Trade?

By Lloyd T Vance
South East Asia News. Org
<http://southeastasianews.org>

Experience in Indochina and Central America suggests that CIA, the principal paymaster for U.S.-backed Afghan warlords, may be more deeply involved in the drug trade than we yet know.

[Here are some links to get you started

☐ Interview with Alfred McCoy

http://www.bearcave.com/bookrev/nugan_hand.html

☐ Washington's Hidden Agenda: Restore the Drug Trade The Spoils of War

<http://www.mindfully.org/Reform/2004/Afghanistan-Drug-Trade5apr04.htm>

☐ Afghanistan: Drug Addiction Lucrative for Neolib Banksters, CIA

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=2488>

☐ The Real Drug Lords, CIA, Drugs, and Wall Street

<http://www.serendipity.li/cia/blum1.html>

☐ Narco-Terrorism in Afghanistan

<http://www.geopium.org/terrorism-monitor-afghanistan-narcoterrorism.html>

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RAWA: Since 2001 the opium cultivation increased over 4,400%. Under the US / NATO, Afghanistan became world largest opium producer, which produces 93% of world opium.

Afghanistan is in a 'downward spiral,' the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen, admitted last week, giving the most negative view of that conflict heard in Washington.

Military men are programmed to always be optimistic, so Admiral Mullen's grim words were particularly noteworthy.

They also flatly contradicted the rosy claims of 'progress' in Afghanistan made by the Bush administration and its increasingly dispirited allies in Canada, France, Germany, Italy and other NATO nations that were dragooned into this deeply unpopular war.

Most Europeans see the Afghan conflict as a 19th-century style colonial war for regional domination and resources.

By contrast, Americans are still being misled by their corporate media and posturing politicians of both parties into believing the seven-year U.S. occupation of Afghanistan is a noble 'anti-terrorism' mission that is defending women's rights and rebuilding a ravage nation instead of another brutal grab for energy, this time from the Caspian Basin.

In a troubling example of Vietnam-style 'mission creep,' the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David McKiernan, is calling for 15,000 more American troops on top of the 8,000 now slated to arrive in January 2009.

His predecessor told Congress that 400,000 U.S. troops would be needed to pacify Afghanistan.

But McKiernan also called for talks with Afghan nationalists resisting western occupation collectively known as Taliban.

Days earlier, it was revealed that senior British officers and diplomats in Afghanistan had called the US-led war 'unwinnable' and advocated peace talks with Taliban.

When the history of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan is written, Washington's sordid involvement in the heroin trade and its alliance with drug lords and war criminals of the Afghan Communist Party will be one of the most shameful chapters.

The Huffington Post, October 15, 2008

Admiral Mullen also ordered U.S. and NATO forces to begin targeting Afghanistan's opium and heroin dealers.

Under American tutelage, Afghanistan has become the world's leading narco-state, surpassing even Colombia, and now producing 90% of the world's heroin. Well over half of the nation's GDP consists of drug money.

Considering this, Admiral Mullen's 'shoot on sight' orders seem rather overdue.

The 64,000 rupee question that arises from Admiral Mullen's new anti-drug policy is: Why was it not done seven years ago when the U.S. invaded Afghanistan?

Why did Washington turn a blind eye to the Afghan drug trade and is only now taking some action?

The answer is simple and dismaying.

America's local allies in Afghanistan, the politicians and warlords who overthrew Taliban in 2001, are up to their turbans in the heroin trade.

Drug money is the blood that courses through Afghanistan's veins and keeps the economy limping along.

The U.S.-installed Karzai regime in Kabul propped up by US and NATO bayonets has only two sources of income: cash handouts from Washington, and the proceeds of drug dealing.

When Taliban ruled 90% of Afghanistan from 1996-2001, it almost totally stamped out poppy cultivation as un-Islamic.

The UN's drug control agency has confirmed this fact.

The only remaining source of drug dealing was in the remote northeast of Afghanistan controlled by the Russian and Iranian-backed Northern Alliance, made up of Tajik Panshiri tribesmen, brutal Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostam, and the remains of the old Afghan Communist Party.

In 2001, the U.S. overthrew Taliban and put the drug-dealing Northern Alliance and Communists in power.

Since then, Afghanistan's drug production has spread across the nation and exports have soared by 60-70%, making Afghanistan the source of nearly all the world's supply of heroin.

Washington called off efforts by the Drug Enforcement Agency to combat the Afghan drug trade for fear of endangering the power base of its former CIA 'asset,' President Hamid Karzai.

Starting with Karzai's brother, Ahmed Wali, the U.S.-installed regime's most important supporters are all involved in varying degrees with the heroin trade.

Almost every important warlord gets revenue from the drug trade.

The Northern Alliance warlords are considered the biggest of the nation's narco-dealers.

Ahmed Karzai denies involvement.

Moving against the drug warlords would have meant undermining Karzai's sole domestic support.

So Washington held its nose and let the drug trade flourish in order to sustain the occupation.

The faux 'war on terror' and lust for Caspian energy trumped the old war on drugs.

Russian state-controlled Channel One TV has broadcast a report containing allegations that US forces are involved in drug-trafficking from Afghanistan to Europe.

It also highlighted the problem of drug abuse in the British army.

Sott.net, February 19, 2008

Experience in Indochina and Central America suggests that CIA, the principal paymaster for U.S.-backed Afghan warlords, may be more deeply involved in the drug trade than we yet know.

Author Alfred McCoy's wrote a brilliant study in his ground-breaking 'The Politics of Heroin' in which he documents how first French, then American intelligence was drawn into the heroin trade in Laos and Vietnam as a way of supporting anti-Communist guerilla fighters.

The same thing happened in Central America where CIA collaborated with cocaine-dealing members of the anti-Communist Contras.

In both cases, drugs served as a currency and became more important than paper money.

French and American spies even ended up transporting heroin for their local allies.

The same may be happening in Afghanistan.

Equally disturbing, there is no way that simple Afghan farmers or Taliban fighters are running the drug trade, as Washington claims.

Poppy sap is collected and converted into opium tar.

Then it is smuggled to secret labs in Pakistan to be transformed into first morphine base, and then purified into heroin.

None of these drugs would move south into Pakistan or be processed with imported chemicals without the full cooperation and assistance of the Afghan government, its supporting warlords, and local Pakistani officials.

The drugs are then smuggled out of the port of Karachi, again under at protection by port and local officials.

Pakistan is a key U.S. ally.

The Karzai regime has been totally corrupted by the drug trade, and so has parts of Pakistan's establishment.

But the United States has also become corrupted in the sense that it has done nothing to combat this scourge and has collaborated with Afghanistan's drug barons by at minimum turning blind eye.

When the history of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan is written, Washington's sordid involvement in the heroin trade and its alliance with drug lords and war criminals of the Afghan Communist Party will be one of the most shameful chapters.

Craig Murray: Afghanistan The Afghan War is for drugs, writes a former Ambassador to Uzbekistan.

The Taliban had put an end to the drugs trade, which is why they were toppled.

While Litvenenko (left) had sought to expose the West's involvement with drugs and died as a result.

Afghanistan

Craig Murray – July 27, 2007

DYING TO PROTECT THE DRUGS BARONS

This week the 64th British soldier to die in Afghanistan, Corporal Mike Gilyeat, was buried.

All the right things were said about this brave soldier, just as, on current trends, they will be said about one or more of his colleagues who follow him next week.

The alarming escalation of the casualty rate among British soldiers in Afghanistan up to ten per cent led to discussion this week on whether it could be fairly compared to casualty rates in the Second World War.

But the key question is this what are our servicemen dying for?

There are glib answers to that bringing democracy and development to Afghanistan, supporting the government of President Hamid Karzai in its attempt to establish order in the country, fighting the Taliban and preventing the further spread of radical Islam into Pakistan.

But do these answers stand up to close analysis?

There has been too easy an acceptance of the lazy notion that the war in Afghanistan is the 'good' war, while the war in Iraq is the 'bad' war, the blunder.

The origins of this view are not irrational.

There was a logic to attacking Afghanistan after 9/11.

Afghanistan was never the headquarters of Osama Bin Laden and his organisation, who had been installed and financed there by the CIA to fight the Soviets from 1979 until 1989.

By comparison, the attack on Iraq which was an enemy of Al Qaeda and no threat to us was plainly irrational in terms of the official justification.

So the attack on Afghanistan has enjoyed a much greater sense of public legitimacy.

But the operation to remove Bin Laden was one thing.

Six years of occupation are clearly another.

Few seem to turn a hair at the officially expressed view that our occupation of Afghanistan may last for decades.

Lib Dem leader Menzies Campbell has declared, fatuously, that the Afghan war is 'winnable'.

Afghanistan was not militarily winnable by the British Empire at the height of its supremacy.

It was not winnable by Darius or Alexander, by Shah, Tsar or Great Moghul.

It could not be subdued by 240,000 Soviet troops.

But what, precisely, are we trying to win?

In six years, the occupation has wrought one massive transformation in Afghanistan, a development so huge that it has increased Afghan GDP by 66 per cent and constitutes 40 per cent of the entire economy.

That is a startling achievement, by any standards.

Yet we are not trumpeting it.

Why not?

The answer is this.

The achievement is the highest harvests of opium the world has ever seen.

The Taliban had reduced the opium crop to precisely nil.

I would not advocate their methods for doing this, which involved lopping bits, often vital bits, off people.

The Taliban were a bunch of mad and deeply unpleasant religious fanatics.

But one of the things they were vehemently against was opium.

That is an inconvenient truth that our spin has managed to obscure.

Nobody has denied the sincerity of the Taliban's crazy religious zeal, and they were as unlikely to sell you heroin as a bottle of Johnnie Walker.

They stamped out the opium trade, and impoverished and drove out the drug warlords whose warring and rapacity had ruined what was left of the country after the Soviet war.

That is about the only good thing you can say about the Taliban there are plenty of very bad things to say about them.

But their suppression of the opium trade and the drug barons is undeniable fact.

Now we are occupying the country, that has changed.

According to the United Nations, 2006 was the biggest opium harvest in history, smashing the previous record by 60 per cent.

This year will be even bigger.

Our economic achievement in Afghanistan goes well beyond the simple production of raw opium.

In fact Afghanistan no longer exports much raw opium at all.

It has succeeded in what our international aid efforts urge every developing country to do.

Afghanistan has gone into manufacturing and 'value-added' operations.

It now exports not opium, but heroin.

Opium is converted into heroin on an industrial scale, not in kitchens but in factories.

Millions of gallons of the chemicals needed for this process are shipped into Afghanistan by tanker.

The tankers and bulk opium lorries on the way to the factories share the roads, improved by American aid, with Nato troops.

How can this have happened, and on this scale?

The answer is simple.

The four largest players in the heroin business are all senior members of the Afghan government the government that our soldiers are fighting and dying to protect.

When we attacked Afghanistan, America bombed from the air while the CIA paid, armed and equipped the dispirited warlord drug barons especially those grouped in the Northern Alliance to do the ground occupation.

We bombed the Taliban and their allies into submission, while the warlords moved in to claim the spoils.

Then we made them ministers.

President Karzai is a good man.

He has never had an opponent killed, which may not sound like much but is highly unusual in this region and possibly unique in an Afghan leader.

But nobody really believes he is running the country.

He asked America to stop its recent bombing campaign in the south because it was leading to an increase in support for the Taliban.

The United States simply ignored him.

Above all, he has no control at all over the warlords among his ministers and governors, each of whom runs his own kingdom and whose primary concern is self-enrichment through heroin.

My knowledge of all this comes from my time as British Ambassador in neighbouring Uzbekistan from 2002 until 2004.

I stood at the Friendship Bridge at Termez in 2003 and watched the Jeeps with blacked-out windows bringing the heroin through from Afghanistan, en route to Europe.

I watched the tankers of chemicals roaring into Afghanistan.

Yet I could not persuade my country to do anything about it.

Alexander Litvinenko the former agent of the KGB, now the FSB, who died in London last November after being poisoned with polonium 210 had suffered the same frustration over the same topic.

There are a number of theories as to why Litvinenko had to flee Russia.

The most popular blames his support for the theory that FSB agents planted bombs in Russian apartment blocks to stir up anti-Chechen feeling.

But the truth is that his discoveries about the heroin trade were what put his life in danger.

Litvinenko was working for the KGB in St Petersburg in 2001 and 2002.

He became concerned at the vast amounts of heroin coming from Afghanistan, in particular from the fiefdom of the (now) Head of the Afghan armed forces, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, in north and east Afghanistan.

Dostum is an Uzbek, and the heroin passes over the Friendship Bridge from Afghanistan to Uzbekistan, where it is taken over by President Islam Karimov's people.

It is then shipped up the railway line, in bales of cotton, to St Petersburg and Riga.

The heroin Jeeps run from General Dostum to President Karimov.

The UK, United States and Germany have all invested large sums in donating the most sophisticated detection and screening equipment to the Uzbek customs centre at Termez to stop the heroin coming through.

But the convoys of Jeeps running between Dostum and Karimov are simply waved around the side of the facility.

Litvinenko uncovered the St Petersburg end and was stunned by the involvement of the city authorities, local police and security services at the most senior levels.

He reported in detail to President Vladimir Putin.

Putin is, of course, from St Petersburg, and the people Litvinenko named were among Putin's closest political allies. That is why Litvinenko, having miscalculated badly, had to flee Russia.

I had as little luck as Litvinenko in trying to get official action against this heroin trade.

At the St Petersburg end he found those involved had the top protection.

In Afghanistan, General Dostum is vital to Karzai's coalition, and to the West's pretence of a stable, democratic government.

Opium is produced all over Afghanistan, but especially in the north and north-east Dostum's territory.

Again, our Government's spin doctors have tried hard to obscure this fact and make out that the bulk of the heroin is produced in the tiny areas of the south under Taliban control.

But these are the most desolate, infertile rocky areas.

It is a physical impossibility to produce the bulk of the vast opium harvest there.

That General Dostum is head of the Afghan armed forces and Deputy Minister of Defence is in itself a symbol of the bankruptcy of our policy.

Dostum is known for tying opponents to tank tracks and running them over.

He crammed prisoners into metal containers in the searing sun, causing scores to die of heat and thirst.

Since we brought 'democracy' to Afghanistan, Dostum ordered an MP who annoyed him to be pinned down while he attacked him.

The sad thing is that Dostum is probably not the worst of those comprising the Karzai government, or the biggest drug smuggler among them.

Our Afghan policy is still victim to Tony Blair's simplistic world view and his childish division of all conflicts into 'good guys' and 'bad guys'.

The truth is that there are seldom any good guys among those vying for power in a country such as Afghanistan.

To characterise the Karzai government as good guys is sheer nonsense.

Why then do we continue to send our soldiers to die in Afghanistan?

Our presence in Afghanistan and Iraq is the greatest recruiting sergeant for Islamic militants.

As the great diplomat, soldier and adventurer Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Alexander Burnes pointed out before his death in the First Afghan War in 1841, there is no point in a military campaign in Afghanistan as every time you beat them, you just swell their numbers.

Our only real achievement to date is falling street prices for heroin in London.

Remember this article next time you hear a politician calling for more troops to go into Afghanistan.

And when you hear of another brave British life wasted there, remember you can add to the casualty figures all the young lives ruined, made miserable or ended by heroin in the UK.

They, too, are casualties of our Afghan policy.

I think this is perhaps the most important thing I have published.

It is also worth noting that the Mail was the only mainstream paper which would carry at the time my article exposing the fake maritime boundaries map.

The Guardian and Independent refused to stand against the "patriotic" flood of lying propaganda.

The Mail has since been totally vindicated.

I think they deserve full credit for continuing to take challenging material which contradicts the official story.

Occupiers involved in drug trade: Afghan Minister

Sun, 01 Nov 2009 01:31:04 GMT



The Afghan minister of counter narcotics says foreign troops are earning money from drug production in Afghanistan.

General Khodaidad Khodaidad said the majority of drugs are stockpiled in two provinces controlled by troops from the US, the UK, and Canada, IRNA reported on Saturday.

He went on to say that NATO forces are taxing the production of opium in the regions under their control.

Afghanistan is the world's biggest supplier of opium, Drug production in the Central Asian country has increased dramatically since the US-led invasion eight years ago.

A recent report by the United Nations states that Afghan opium is having a devastating impact on the world, killing thousands in consumer countries.

Meanwhile, The New York Times reported on Wednesday that Ahmad Wali Karzai, a brother of the Afghan president, is involved in the opium trade, meets with Taliban leaders, and is also a CIA operative.

The opium trade is the major source of CIA financing.

The Afghan War: "No Blood for Opium"

The Hidden Military Agenda is to Protect the Drug Trade

It was common during the opening of the Iraq war to see slogans proclaiming "No blood for oil!"

The cover story for the war – Saddam's links with Al Qaida and his weapons of mass destruction – were obvious mass deceptions, hiding a far less palatable imperial agenda.

The truth was that Iraq was a major producer of oil and, in our age, the Age of Oil, oil is the most strategic resource of all.

For many it was obvious that the real agenda of the war was an imperialistic grab for Iraqi oil.

This was confirmed when Iraq's state-owned oil company was privatised to western interests in the aftermath of the invasion.

Why then are there no slogans saying "No blood for opium!"?

Afghanistan's major product is opium and opium production has increased remarkably during the present war.

The current NATO action around Marjah is clearly motivated by opium.

It is reported to be Afghanistan's main opium-producing area.

Why then won't people consider that the real agenda of the Afghan war has been control of the opium trade?

The weapons of mass deception tell us that the opium belongs to the Taliban and that the US is fighting a war on drugs as well as terror.

Yet it remains a curious fact that the opium trade has tracked across Southern Asia for the past five decades from east to west, following US wars, and always under the control of US assets.

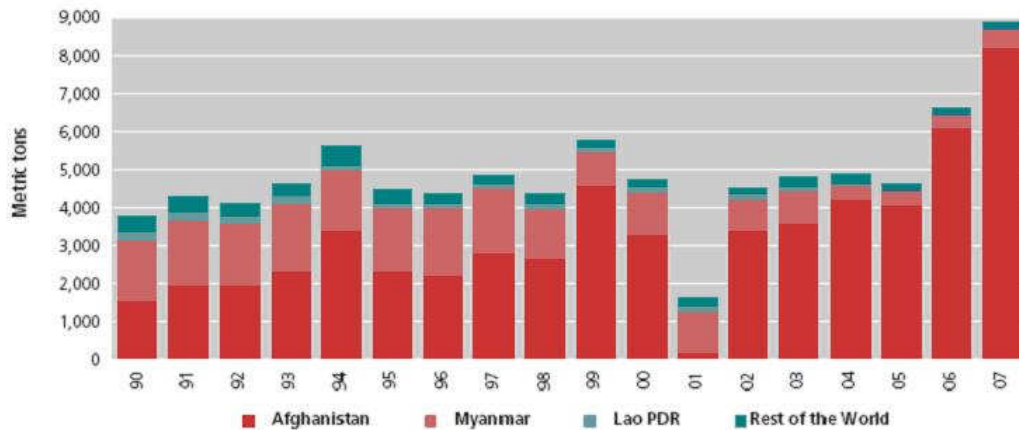
In the 1960s, when the US fought a secret war in Laos using the Hmong opium army of Vang Pao as its proxy, Southeast Asia produced 70% of the world's illicit opium.

After the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Afghanistan production, controlled by US-backed drug lords, took off, till it rivalled Southeast Asian production.

Since 2002, Afghan opium production, encouraged by both the Taliban and US-backed drug lords, has reached 93% of world illicit production, an unparalleled performance.

The graph below from the UN World Drug Report 2008 shows the astonishing increase in Afghan opium production that followed the US invasion.

Global illicit opium production, by region: 1990 - 2007



In the 1980s the US supported Islamic fundamentalists, the Mujahideen, against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

To pay for their war, the Mujahideen ordered peasants to grow opium as a revolutionary tax.

Across the border in Pakistan, Afghan leaders and local syndicates, under the protection of Pakistani Intelligence, operated hundreds of heroin labs.

As the Golden Crescent in Southwest Asia eclipsed the Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia as the centre of the heroin trade, it sent rates of addiction spiralling in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

To hide US complicity in the drug trade, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) officers were required to look away from the drug-dealing intrigues of the US allies and the support they received from Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) and the services of Pakistani banks.

The CIA's mission was to destabilise the Soviet Union through the promotion of militant Islam inside the Central Asian Republics and they sacrificed the drug war to fight the Cold War.

Their mission was to do as much damage as possible to the Soviets.

Knowing the drug war would hasten the collapse of the Soviet Union, the CIA facilitated the operation of anti-Soviet rebels in the provinces of Uzbekistan, Chechnya and Georgia.

Drugs were used to finance terrorism and western intelligence agencies used their control of drugs to influence political factions in Central Asia.

The Soviet army withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, leaving a civil war between the US-funded mujahideen and the Soviet-supported government that raged until 1992.

In the chaos that followed the mujahideen victory, Afghanistan lapsed into a period of warlordism in which opium growing thrived.

The Taliban emerged from the chaos, dedicated to removing the war lords and applying a strict interpretation of Sharia law.

They captured Kandahar in 1994, and expanded their control throughout Afghanistan, capturing Kabul in 1996, and declaring the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

Under the policies of the Taliban government, opium production in Afghanistan was curbed.

In September 1999, the Taliban authorities issued a decree, requiring all opium-growers in Afghanistan to reduce output by one-third.

A second decree, issued in July 2000, required farmers to completely stop opium cultivation.

Ordering the ban on opium growing, Taliban leader Mullah Omar called the drug trade “un-Islamic”.

As a result, 2001 was the worst year for global opium production in the period between 1990 and 2007.

During the 1990s, global opium production averaged over 4000 tonnes.

In 2001, opium production fell to less than 200 tonnes.

Although it was not admitted by the Howard government, which claimed the credit itself, Australia’s 2001 heroin shortage was due to the Taliban.

Following the attack on the Pentagon and the World Trade Centre on 11 September 2001, the armies of the northern alliance, led by US Special Forces, supported by daisy cutters,

cluster bombs and bunker-busting missiles, shattered the Taliban forces in Afghanistan.

The opium ban was lifted and, with CIA-backed warlords back in control, Afghanistan again became the major producer of opium.

Despite the official denials, Hillary Mann Leverett, a former US National Security Council official for Afghanistan, confirmed that the US knew that government ministers in Afghanistan, including the minister of defence in 2002, were involved in drug trafficking.

After 2002 Afghan opium production rose to unheard of levels.

By 2007, Afghanistan was producing enough heroin to supply the entire world.

In 2009, Thomas Schweich, who served as US state department co-ordinator for counter-narcotics and justice reform for Afghanistan, accused President Hamid Karzai of impeding the war on drugs.

Schweich also accused the Pentagon of obstructing attempts to get military forces to assist and protect opium crop eradication drives.

Schweich wrote in the New York Times that "narco-corruption went to the top of the Afghan government".

He said Karzai was reluctant to move against big drug lords in his political power base in the south, where most of the country's opium and heroin is produced.

The most prominent of these suspected drug lords was Ahmed Wali Karzai, the brother of President Hamid Karzai.

Ahmed Wali Karzai was said to have orchestrated the manufacture of hundreds of thousands of phony ballots for his brother's re-election effort in August 2009.

He was also believed to have been responsible for setting up dozens of so-called ghost polling stations — existing only on paper — that were used to manufacture tens of thousands of phony ballots.

US officials have criticised his "mafia-like" control of southern Afghanistan.

The New York Times reported that the Obama administration had vowed to crack down on the drug lords who permeate the highest levels of President Karzai's administration, and they pressed President Karzai to move his brother out of southern Afghanistan, but he refused to do so.

"Karzai was playing us like a fiddle," Schweich wrote.

The US would spend billions of dollars on infrastructure development the US and its allies would fight the Taliban Karzai's friends could get richer off the drug trade.

"Karzai had Taliban enemies who profited from drugs but he had even more supporters who did."

But who was playing who like a fiddle?
Was it the puppet President or the puppet masters who installed him?

As Douglas Valentine shows in his history of the War on Drugs, *The Strength of the Pack*, this never-ending war has been a phony contest, an arm wrestle between two arms of the US state, the DEA and the CIA with the DEA vainly attempting to prosecute the war, while the CIA protects its drug-dealing assets.

During the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries, European powers (chiefly the UK) and Japan used the opium trade to weaken and subjugate China.

During the Twenty-First century, it seems that the opium weapon is being used against Iran, Russia and the former Soviet republics, which all face spiralling rate of addiction and covert US penetration as the Afghan War fuels central Asia's heroin plague.